

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar

City Council 7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Monday, June 25
Monday, July 19

Planning Comm. 7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Thursday, June 21
Thursday, July 5

Design Review 7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Tuesday, June 26

Park, Trails, Rec. 7pm
Community Center
500 St Mary's Road
Wednesday, July 11

Circulation 7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Monday, July 18

Emergency Prep. 9:15am
City Offices
3675 Mt, Diablo Blvd. Suite 265
Wednesday, July 11

Senior Services 4pm
Community Center, Alder Room
500 St Mary's Road
Thursday, June 28

check online:
Town of Lafayette:
<http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us>
for:
• all meeting notes
• calendar updates
Chamber of Commerce:
<http://www.lafayettechamber.org>
for:
• local businesses
• upcoming events



Possession of Dangerous Drugs, 6/2/07 A Concord man was contacted while walking across a parking lot of an apartment complex on Second Avenue. He identified himself as on "searchable probation." Officer searched him and found white crystal like substance, thought to be methamphetamine.

Counterfeit Cash, 5/31/07 A 37 year old woman tried to pay for milk and alcohol with a counterfeit \$100 bill at the Orinda Safeway. She had two fake \$100's on her person.

Phone Harassment, 6/2/07 Female Acalanes student received 11 text messages of a sexual nature, she was unsure if a fellow Acalanes student sent the messages. The officer attempted to track the owner of the phone number of the sent messages, but couldn't locate. Officer left a message on the sender's phone.

"Who's Watching You?"

The Lafayette Crime Prevention Commission, along with the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission and the Lafayette Police Department, are holding a Town Hall Meeting next Tuesday, June 19, from 7:00pm-8:30pm in the Manzanita Room at the Lafayette Community Center.

Bring your issues and ideas for discussion. Learn about neighborhood watch programs and CERT training. All residents of Lafayette are welcome.

Lamorinda Spirit Van Needs Drivers

The Lafayette Senior Transportation Program is looking for volunteer drivers for Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda seniors. The time commitment is only one day per week for four hours. Drivers are required to have a Class B drivers license; training for the license will be provided. If you are interested, please call the Senior Transportation Program at 283-3534.

Would Smaller Be Better?

Lafayette's Planning Commission Finds that You Can't Please all of the People, all of the Time

By Andy Scheck

There have been hearings, design changes and presentations, and yet the Planning Commission was unable to reach a consensus last week on the proposed multi-unit residential condominium project at 3235 Mt. Diablo Ct.

Although the design was reduced from an original 40 units to 28, contained within 2 stories over parking on 2 acres of land, the building still appears poised to be a massive structure in comparison to the single-family homes nearby.

Joe Bologna, architect with Hollman - Bologna, Architecture & Planning, Inc., Walnut Creek,

presented the design changes along with an exhibition of maps, pictures, landscape studies and a model of the site. Design changes were incorporated to address concerns expressed by the Commission at an earlier hearing. Some architectural elements came out and the number of units was dramatically reduced. None of the Planning Commissioners was satisfied with the design changes and no one could put a finger on exactly what was expected or what further changes could be made in order for the Commission to reach an easy decision.

The proposed development

would bring a multiple housing project into Lafayette, which is on the city's "to-do list." It is considered a Low Density Multiple-Family Residential construction at 14 dwelling units to the acre. The biggest struggle is that the zoning has to be changed from Single-Family to Planned Unit Development and objectors are concerned that this could lower the bar for other projects to come.

During the public hearing session, residents and the Homeowners Council voiced their concerns about the development. The main concerns are about the size of the building and the po-

tential impact on environmental, drainage, traffic and noise.

A visibility study illustrated how much of the development could be seen both immediately after construction and also after 10 years when the landscaping around the building has grown tall enough to shield much of the structure from direct view. Tom Chastain, a commissioner who likes the proposed underground parking, would prefer to make the development "invisible" because of its design and not because it will be hidden behind trees after some point. The redesign which reduced the number of units also eliminated a

standout roof section for pent-house units. It also increased the setbacks to some single-home properties. Not reduced was the number of underground parking spaces.

In an ambiguous conclusion about the new development, the Commission could not come up with reasonable improvements to the existing design that would satisfy both the Commission and the public. It is now up to City staff to come up with a recommendation, and up to the City Council to decide if some of the people will be pleased some of the time; should this additional housing be built, or not.

"Lock-down" Parties a Thing of the Past?

By Lee Borrowman

There's been a new on-line petition circulating through Lafayette over the past couple of weeks which asks residents to support a proposed Social Host Liability Ordinance that was presented to the City Council on May 29 by Lafayette resident Joan Grimes.

Social Host Liability Ordinances are laws that hold private individuals responsible for underage drinking events held on their property. Orinda currently has a similar ordinance in place, and that city is currently considering

some changes that would make their ordinance even stricter. The Lafayette City Council has not placed this proposed Ordinance on its agenda nor is this proposal currently under consideration by the Council. Should backers succeed in moving the proposal forward, it is expected that debate will arise around the issue of privacy rights in relation to restrictions on activities taking place on private property.

Grimes says, "Lafayette, as well as many other communities, has seen an alarming increase in

the number of "home parties" or "lock down" parties. For example, after the Junior Prom this year, 911 had to be called due to alcohol poisoning. These parties are commonly large gatherings of young people in a private home. While California law currently prohibits both the furnishing of alcohol to underage persons and youth on public property, state law does not prohibit youth possession or consumption on private property." Grimes would like the City of Lafayette to enact an ordinance "which would prohibit the hosting

of private parties or gatherings where alcohol is consumed by minors."

The meat of the proposed ordinance:

A. No person may permit or host a party at his or her place of residence or other private property under his or her control where 2 or more unrelated persons under the age of 21 are present and alcoholic beverages are in the possession of, or are being consumed by any person under the age of 21 years of age.

B. A violation of subsection A of this section is a misdemeanor, punishable by Community Serv-

ice or Alcohol & Drug Education or fine of not more \$750 for the first offense, \$1,000 for the second offense and \$2,500 for the third offense, or by both such fine and Community Service/Alcohol Education Program.

C. The amount of the fine under this section is a debt owed to the city by the Person Responsible. The city may bring an action for collection of the debt. The debt bears interest at the rate of ten percent a year. Interest accrues from the due date stated on the billing. To view the petition go to <http://www.gopetition.com/online/12467.html>

Road Measure Fails; Up Next, Schools

By Lee Borrowman

Measure C, the proposed parcel tax which would have raised funds for the repair of Lafayette's worst roads, was narrowly defeated on June 5. The measure received 63% of the vote, but needed 66% to pass.

Mayor Carol Federighi expressed disappointment that the measure did not obtain the 2/3 majority required. "I was heartened that more than 6 out of 10 voters supported Measure C," she said. "But the need for road repairs remains, and the City simply doesn't have the funds to do the job." The City of Lafayette estimates that an additional \$24 million would be required to repair all of its failing roads.

"I was really impressed, however," Federighi continued, "with the wonderful campaign that was waged. The volunteers worked so hard to get out the message and garner the support." Over 100 residents had mobilized over the last several weeks to campaign

in favor of Measure C.

Measure D, on the other hand, passed with over 70% of the vote. A companion to Measure C, this advisory measure requested that the town continue its annual allocation of \$1 million in General Funds to road repairs should Measure C pass.

Voters in Lafayette appear to want the City to continue fixing the roads, and are reluctant to pay for it themselves. Federighi concluded, "It's likely that our strongest support came from voters on the failed roads that are the most expensive to repair and rebuild. Many of our roads are (private or are) in pretty good shape thanks to our successful Road and Drain bond measure in 1995."

On the November ballot: As the city considers what the future of Lafayette road repairs might look like, the Lafayette School District is making plans to renew and increase, to between \$290-\$315, the 1999 parcel tax

which supports local schools. The current tax, which expires next summer, is \$132.

Did you Know?

Of those who voted in the special election, nearly 71% of Lafayette voters and 77% of Orinda voters used absentee ballots in this election.

Lest you ever think your vote doesn't count, Orinda's Measure E and Lafayette's Measure C were both less than 170 votes away from obtaining the 66% majority required to pass (165 votes in Lafayette, 163 in Orinda).

In the three Contra Costa County communities that held special elections on June 5 (Lafayette, Orinda and Clayton), total voter turn-out was less than 42% of registered voters.

Find the numbers at: <http://cocovote.us/>

Lafayette Strategy Meeting

How many residents does it take to form a strategy for downtown Lafayette? More than you think. The City Redevelopment Agency recently signed a contract with planning and urban design firm, Wallace, Roberts & Todd for \$507,000 to develop a plan to guide development in downtown Lafayette for the next 20-30 years.

Extensive community input is a vital part of the plan. To that end, a representative from 14 distinct groups will make up an Advisory Committee. Obviously the City Council and Design Review Commissions will have a representative, but also Parks and Recreation, Creeks Committee, Homeowners Council and others groups will make up the committee along with

an at-large resident representative. There is a public meeting of the Committee, which the public is welcome to attend on Thursday, June 14 at 7:00 at the City Offices, 3675 Mount Diablo Boulevard. On the agenda is prioritizing the Committee's expectations for the project, perceptions of key issues and more.

The scope for work for Wallace, Roberts & Todd is divided into three main phases, culminating in a Final Draft Strategy. Phase I is defining the issues and vision. Phase II encompasses exploring alternatives and comparing relative merits. Phase III is about preparing a strategy for the City with analysis of many distinct elements the most prominent being land use, urban design, transportation and circulation, utilities, and finance.



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